GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2074
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2007
LAW FOR SAFETY OF WORKING WOMEN
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for women had recommended to enact a new law for safety of women working in industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the atrocities on working women have increased in the recent past; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b) National Commission for Women has not recommended any new law for the safety of women working in industry, apart from the draft bill suggested by it on protection of women against sexual harassment at work place.

(c) According to the data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, the total number of crimes registered in the country under IPC and special laws for women was 154333, 155553 and 164765 during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively. Separate data is not maintained in respect of working women.

(d) Action being taken towards empowerment of women and to curb crimes against them is mentioned in the annexed Statement (Annexure).

ANNEXURE

Statement referred to in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2074 for 30.11.2007 by Shri G. Karunkara Reddy regarding Law for Safety of Working Women

Law and order and other criminal matters is a State subject under the Constitution and therefore, the direct responsibility for dealing with enforcement of the concerned Acts is that of the State Governments and the mechanisms under them. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes against women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/ UT Administrations. However, the Government of India has initiated a number of measures to check such crimes, such as:-

Enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 which provides for more effective protection of the Constitutional rights of women, who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family including any unlawful demand for dowry.

setting up of helplines for women in distress under the Swadhar Scheme

support services to victims of violence through schemes such as Short Stay Homes and Swadhar under which shelter, maintenance, counseling, capacity building, occupational training, medical aid and other services are provided

grant-in-aid schemes providing assistance for rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims as well as prevention through special schemes in source areas of trafficking

redressal of grievances through interventions of National and State Commissions for Women

organizing legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Camps

implementation of schemes for (i) awareness generation and advocacy and (ii) economic empowerment of women through the programmes of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Swayamsidha Project, and Support to Training & Employment Programme (STEP)

review of laws with a view to remove provisions which may be discriminatory to women and to enhance punishments for crimes against women

sensitisation of judiciary and police and civil administration on gender issues

Follow up of reports of cases of atrocities against women received from various sources, including National Commission for Women (NCW), with concerned authorities in the Central and the State Governments.

Apart from legislative changes in the relevant Acts, instructions/guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women and monitor the enforcement and to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and to take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crime against women and other vulnerable sections of society. The measures suggested include:

sensitizing of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting the women
vigorously enforce the existing legislation relating to dowry violence
set up women police cells in police stations and exclusive women police stations
provide institutional support to the victims of violence
provide counseling to victims of rape
take measures to eliminate trafficking in women. States have also been advised to constitute State Advisory Committees to advise on trafficking matters
ensure wider recruitment of women police officers
train police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women.
setting up of Fast Track Courts
setting up of Family Courts
appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961